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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by International Relations Students' Association of McGill University, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

We, the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University, are a federally incorporated non-profit organization, established and operating at McGill University in Montréal, Canada. We are the one of the only active student-run organizations with Economic and Social Council consultative status on the global stage today. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University is an independent group at the University, comprised of a diverse cohort of McGill students.

Volunteerism is the at the heart of the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University, with all of our programming executed by full-time students who devote precious hours and diligent effort to promoting student engagement in global affairs on our campus and in our respective local and international communities.

Of particular importance is the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University's Junior Peacemakers initiative, which offers elementary school students in Montréal globally-minded education on various social and political challenges. Junior Peacemakers employs activities and discussion groups with intersectional approaches in hopes of increasing global awareness at a young age.

Our members have had the opportunity to participate at the United Nations in a consultative capacity for several years now and look forward to a continued relationship with the Economic and Social Council. The wealth of the experiences and knowledge our members have brought home from the United Nations has assisted us in forging positive change in communities throughout the world.

The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University is looking forward to attending the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development and engaging in productive conversation surrounding the priority theme of addressing inequalities and challenges for social inclusion through fiscal, wage, and social protection policies. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University recognizes the impact all stakeholders can and should have in creating policies that better promote social inclusion. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University has explored thoroughly the results of the Division for Inclusive Social Development expert group meeting in June 2018. As an organization that aims to supplement its members' education on international development and project management, the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University affirms Capacity Development is a necessary prerequisite for effective national social protection programmes. Member Nations seeking to foster sustainable social protection programmes must first work to establish accessible multidisciplinary social protection programme curricula for individuals seeking to or currently working on social inclusion policy.

In addition, the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University recognizes the challenge in ensuring that national tax policies produce benefits that equitably reach all members of society. Distributional inequalities that result directly from tax and transfer systems cannot be overcome until national governments prioritize inclusive economic growth as they create policy. Specifically, national tax policies that better support small businesses, allocate revenue from environmentally related taxes, and harness the advantages of recurrent property taxes to promote inclusive economic growth.

Countering the income inequality that persists worldwide through initiatives that aim at universalising affordable, accessible, and quality education is a point of focus the International Relations Students' Association of McGill University would

like to see discussed at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development.

The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University is as an organization that enthusiastically engages with international relations. We celebrate the years of international progress achieved through the United Nations and anticipate all that is to come. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University will return to the Commission on Social Development this year, interested in further understanding the challenges and inequalities that prevent social inclusion, as well as witnessing the innovative solutions that this session will undoubtedly result in. The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University looks forward to giving a voice to the unique perspective of young, passionate leaders of our generation.